



## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Litigants and Members of the Bar  
**FROM:** Philip E. Smith, Judge of Fourth Circuit Court, 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
**DATE:** July 9, 2020  
**RE:** Notice for Remote Hearings for Fourth Circuit Court

In an effort to be proactive in protecting the safety and well-being of litigants, lawyers, court staff and all those who may come before the Fourth Circuit Court, effective Monday, July 13, 2020, **ALL** hearings in Fourth Circuit Court will be held via telephone or video conference **WITH THE EXCEPTION** of the following cases, which will be heard in-person:

- Order of Protection Hearings (*this includes Order of Protection re-hearings and extension requests*)
- Criminal and Civil Contempt Hearings
- Judicial Settlement Conferences
- Final Contested Hearings

As it relates to those cases specifically set forth above that will be heard in-person, continuance requests for good cause (*including a fear or concern with potential COVID-19 exposure from coming to court*), will be considered by the court.

Further, Friday Motion Dockets will be posted the Tuesday prior to the hearing on the Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk's website (*under a link entitled "Staggered Motion Docket"*) that will denote time and method for the hearing of each case. Please be sure to check the docket for specific instructions on how to participate in your hearing.

Until further notice, all motions shall include the following language in bold typeface, along with the corresponding date the motion is to be heard:

**THIS MOTION MAY BE HEARD VIA TELEPHONE OR VIDEO CONFERENCE. TO LOCATE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHEDULING AND METHOD OF THIS HEARING, PLEASE VISIT THE DAVIDSON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S WEBSITE AT: <http://circuitclerk.nashville.gov/Circuit/> ON THE TUESDAY PRIOR TO THE HEARING DATE SET FORTH HEREIN, AND LOCATE THE STAGGERED MOTION DOCKET.**

**For all other cases that will be heard remotely (i.e. uncontested and divorces, uncontested adoptions, show cause matters, and child support cases) lawyers and unrepresented litigants will be personally contacted by court staff and given the relevant information on how to participate in their hearing.**

The procedure for hearings contained in this notice shall be in effect through Friday, July 24, 2020, at which time the Court may extend or modify hearing procedures. The Court will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in the community, as well as the advice and mandates from our federal, state and local governing bodies, health care professionals and the Tennessee Supreme Court to determine further action, including further limiting or resuming in-person hearings.

Please feel free to contact our office at: 615-862-5910 if we may be of any assistance to you.